

Take Up Your Cross

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Matthew 16:24 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:22-28 (NIV)



X M V Q X O V J W J O U Z E X
Q Z P E P F Y A B W M P R X W
E F V A L F O R F E I T O I J
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Q I P E C X G S I V D S T R P
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G E Q N O Z V S A F A O S L Z
L I E Y N L A N S N H W G E K
O D H O Q F L V R W G L A S V
F G F H L K T O L I F E I O V
I W O R L D O D W T U I N U C
N I Y O O S U Q C G B Q Y L L
D H T P D T V E P J M U H Z Y

GIVE	EXCHANGE	GOOD	WHOLE
FIND	SAVE	CROSS	GAIN
SELF	SOUL	FOLLOW	LOSE
DENY	WORLD	FORFEIT	LIFE



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August 30, 2026 ✚ Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God’s words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn’t grasp Jesus’ words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

✚ GATHERING ✚

Prelude

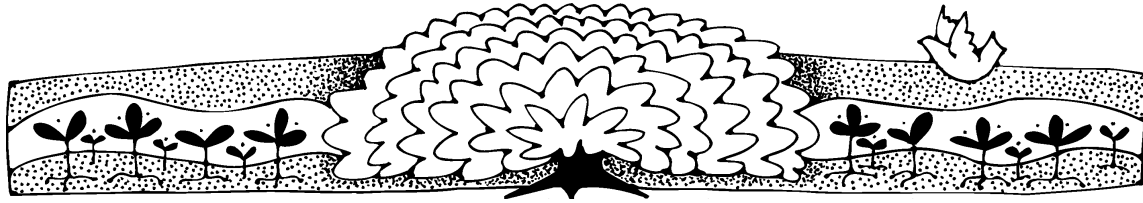
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God’s grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord’s meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

When we claim to be without sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we would confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Today we are called to present our bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God.

(Silence for meditation and self-examination.)

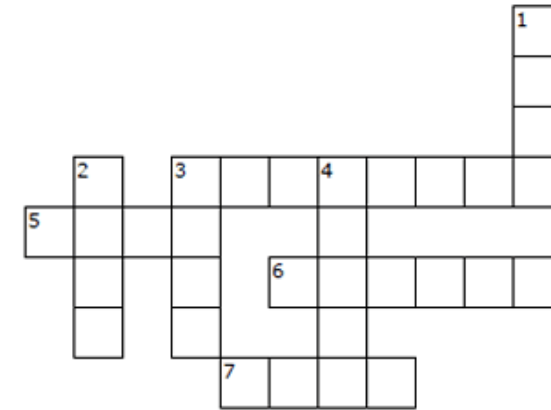
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have hoarded our gifts
and have failed to follow where your Son would lead.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

“I am with you to save you and deliver you,” Almighty God has promised.
He has given his Son to die for us and,
for his sake, forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,
and by his authority, I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father,
and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Take Up Your Cross

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Matthew 16:24 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:22-28 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. One who believes in Christ and follows his teachings
5. The period between birth and death
6. To accept the leadership of someone
7. To no longer have something because it has been taken away from you or misplaced

DOWN

1. To keep something from harm or loss
2. To discover something unexpectedly or as a result of a search
3. To refuse to allow yourself to have something you want
4. The object upon which Jesus was crucified

FIND	LIFE	DISCIPLE	FOLLOW
DENY	CROSS	SAVE	LOSE

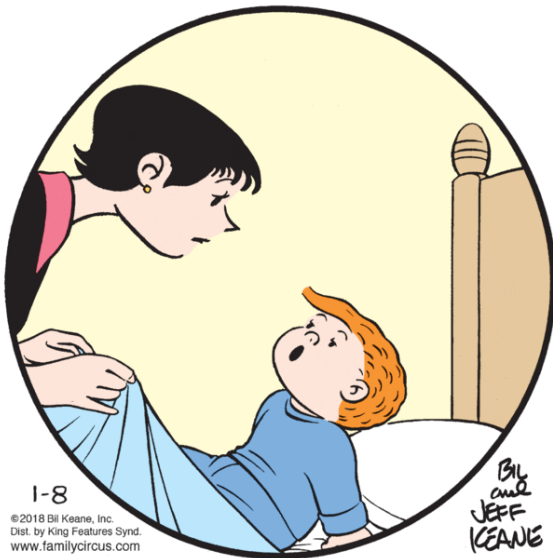
Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



9-3
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“Corn tastes best when it’s
on these rollers.”



1-8
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“Who tells you and Daddy when it’s
time for you to go to bed?”

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Opening Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

#879



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav’n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow’r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv’n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

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Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872
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Opening Litany

Sin tells us, “It won’t make a difference
if you just keep on disobeying God and follow your own desires.”
May we say “Get behind me!” to the sin in our lives.
For the wages of sin is death.

Our human nature tells us, “Keep taking from others,
keep looking for ways to make more money,
and keep buying things that will make your life more comfortable.”
May we say “Get behind me!” to the greed in our lives.
For no greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ.

Worldly rulers say, “God is not in control. We are.
Listen to us, and you will have all that you need.”

**May we say “Get behind me!” to the lies
that other people tell us about God, because those who are deceived
will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.**

Our minds wonder, “How can God really exist when we can’t see him?
How can we know for sure that he loves us?
How do we know that salvation is coming
when we have never had a glimpse of heaven?”
**May we say “Get behind me!” to the doubts
that plague our minds about the promised plans of God,
because those who doubt are like waves of the sea,
blown and tossed by the wind.**

With a life renewed by the Spirit of redemption,
with a heart free from selfish ambition, with a soul devoted to God,
and with a will confident in faith,
**we forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead,
pressing on toward the goal to win the prize
for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus.**

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

Father, I Adore You

W&P #37

1 Fa - ther,
2 Je - sus, I a - dore you, lay my life be -
3 Spir - it,
fore you; how I love you.

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Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*
Compassionate God,
**through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

Benediction

God all mighty, God most merciful,
bless us, keep us, and grant us peace.
In the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

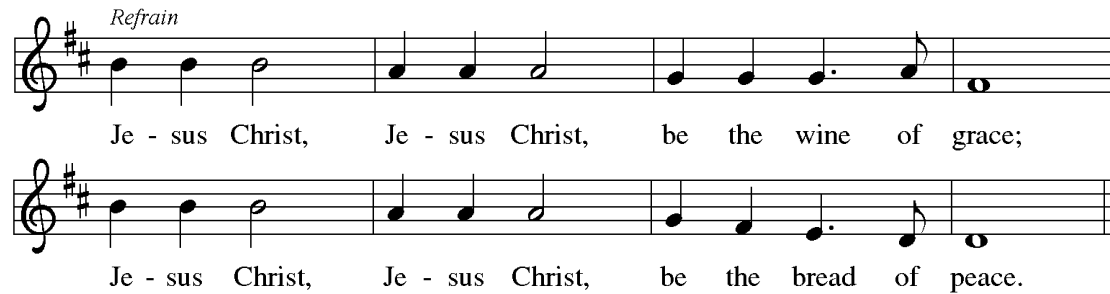
Sending Hymn

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

#656

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Refrain



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;
 Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

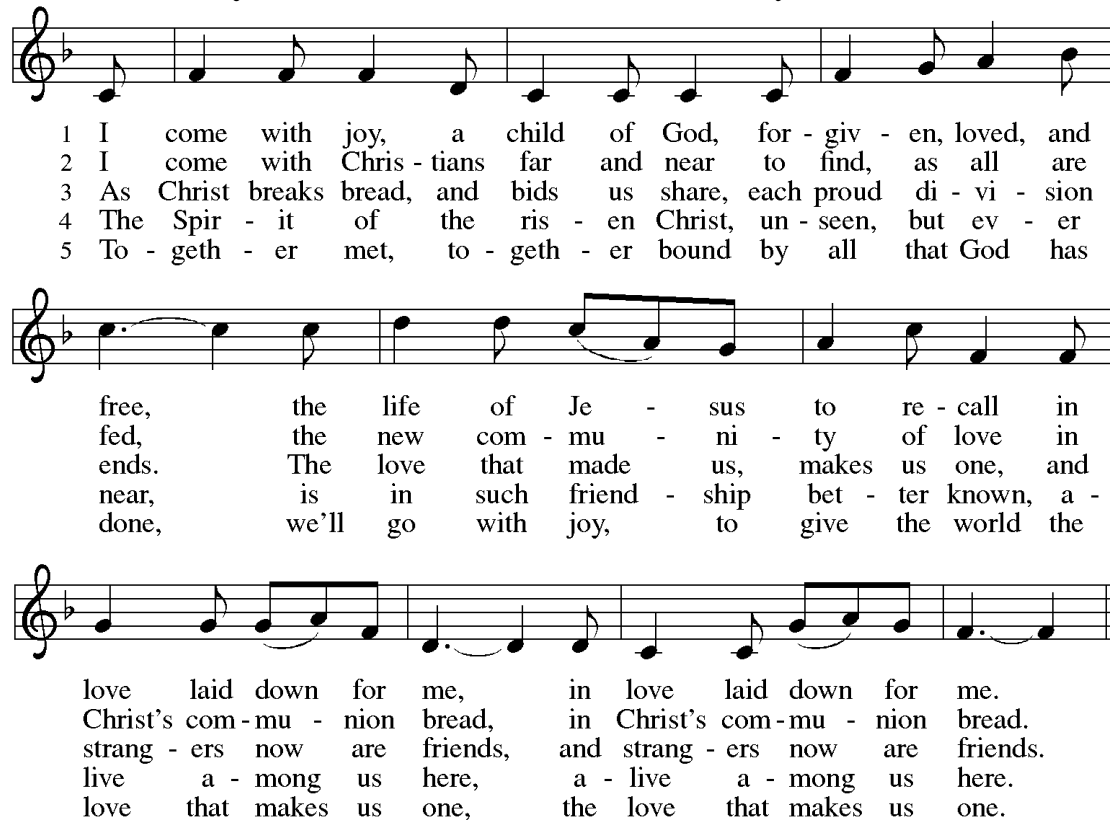
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Distribution Hymn

I Come with Joy

#482



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.
 Music: Johann G. Nägeli, 1773-1836, adapt.
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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

O God,
we thank you for your Son,
who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world.
Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience,
and give us strength to follow your commands,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me,
 and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
 know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
 and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart;
 for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice;
 under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
 for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
 my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?
 Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
 and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
 you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you
to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 26:1-8

Let us read Psalm 26 responsively.

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

²**Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴**I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

Second Reading

Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

A reading from Romans.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love
one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

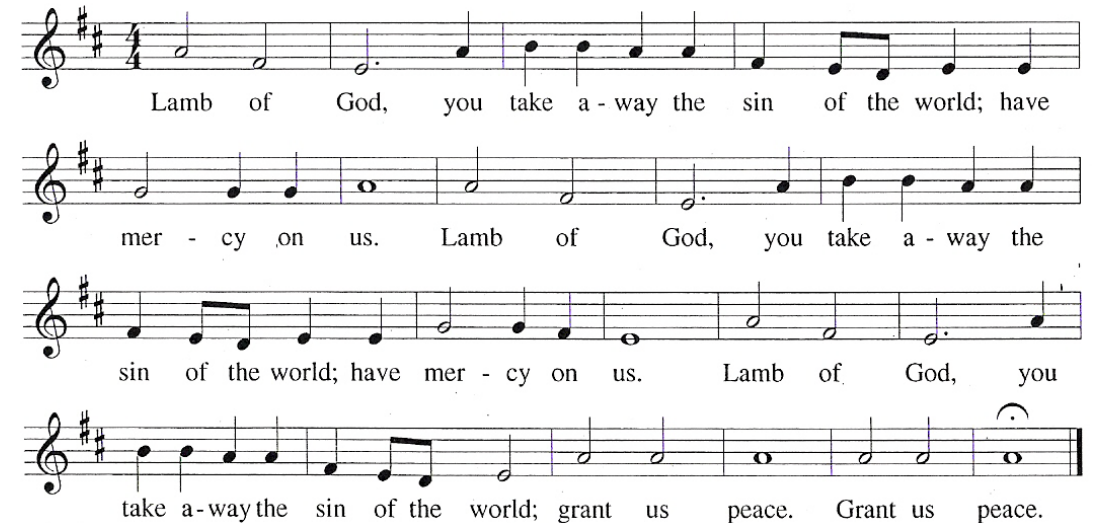
**and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

Family of God



Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

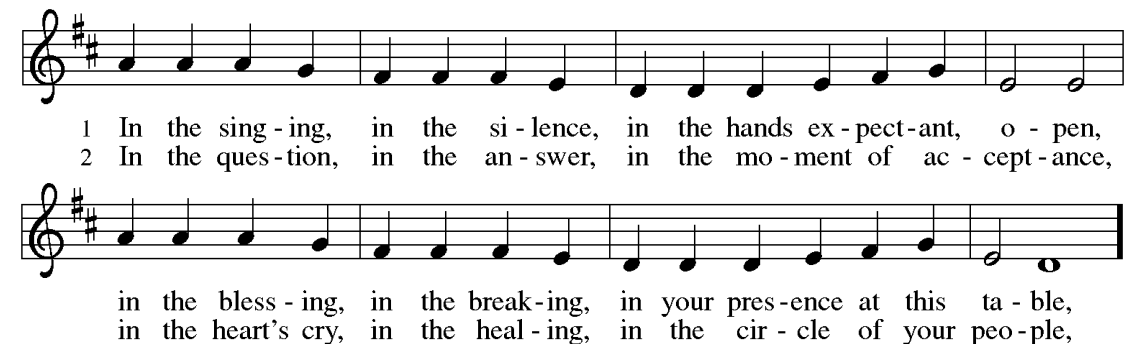
The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Distribution Hymn

In the Singing

#466



Hymn continues on the next page.

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks.
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying
*“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”*

After supper Jesus took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying,
*“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Sending God, who commissioned Moses
for a purpose beyond his comprehension,
send forth your church with an imagination shaped for your kingdom.
Give your disciples grace to bless those who persecute them,
to be patient in suffering, to persevere in prayer, and to rejoice in hope.
Stretch every heart to find life in you by losing it,
and strengthen your people with courage and wisdom
to take up their cross and follow your Son.
Make your people on earth ready for a purpose beyond our imagining,
a life beyond our deserving, a glory beyond our reckoning,
until your kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven
and you bring us with the saints onto eternal holy ground,
afame with your love, most holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

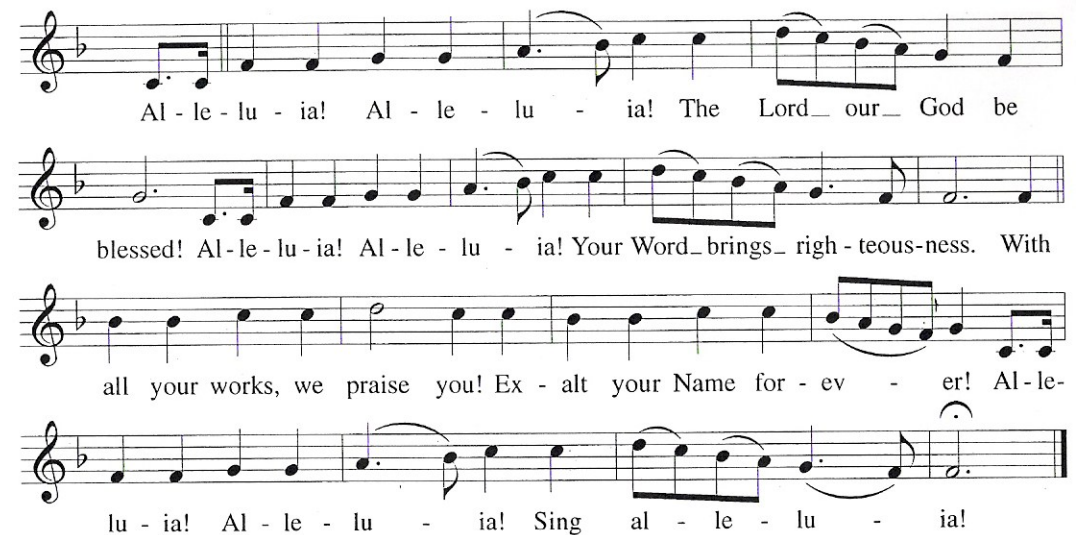
Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.
¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

Family of God



Alleluia

Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:21-28

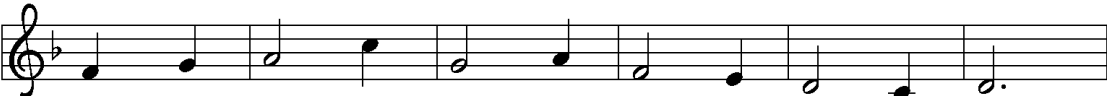
After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.
²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."
²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?
²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children’s Time
Sermon**

Hymn of the Day *Will You Come and Follow Me* #798



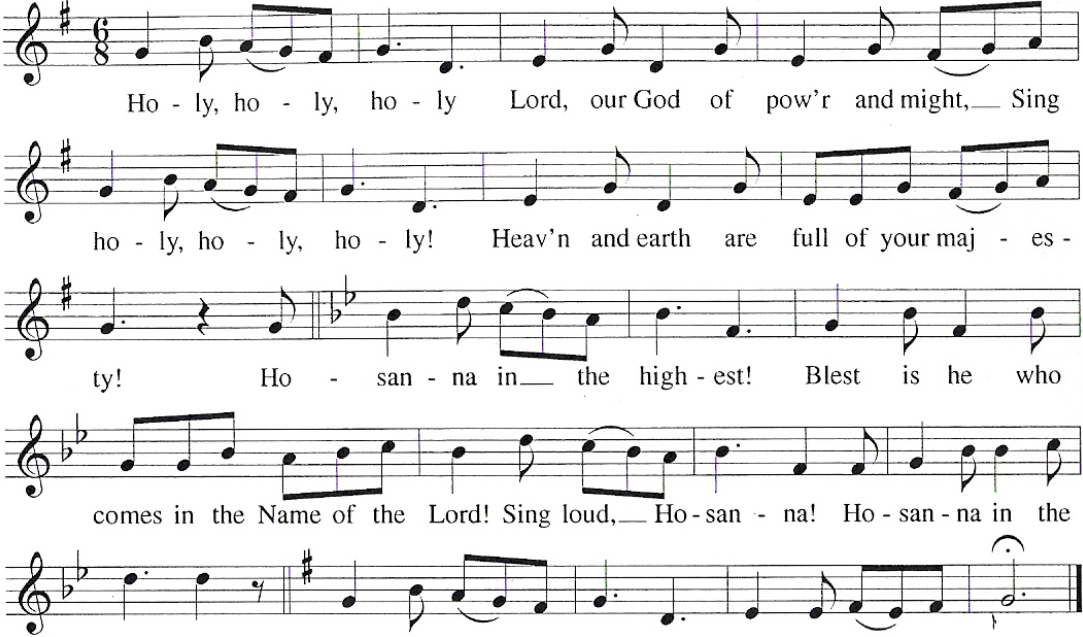
1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 “Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 “Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

In the fullness of time you revealed your way of overcoming evil
in the crucible of your Son’s passion and death;
through his resurrection you proclaimed once again
that you are the great I AM for all generations.
And so we give you thanks with your church on earth
and all the company of heaven, as we join the unending hymn.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

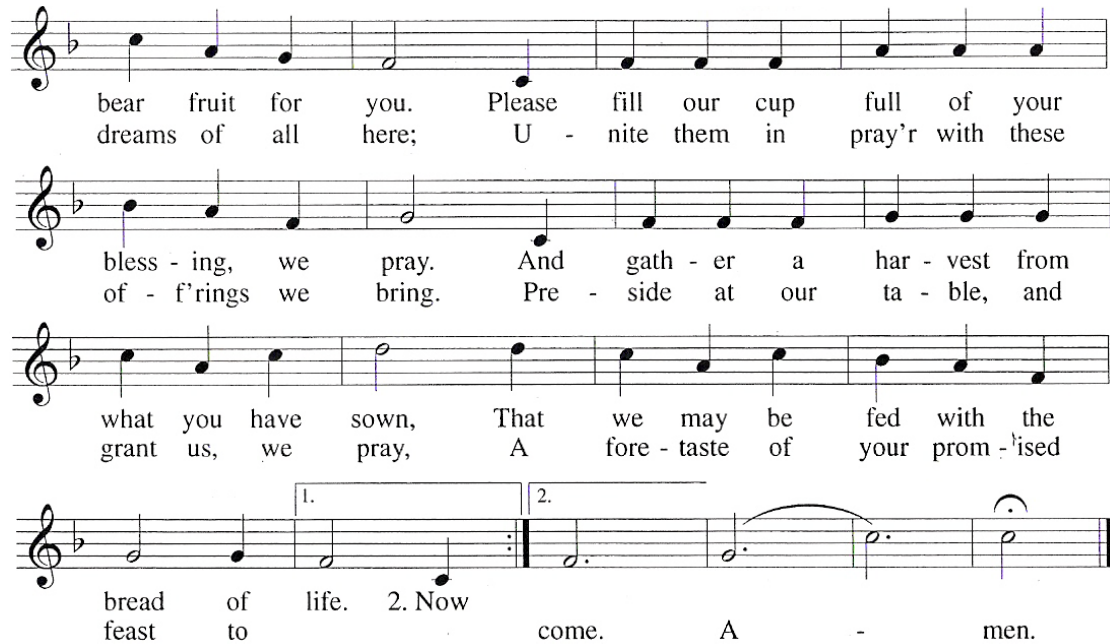
Family of God



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, our God of pow'r and might, — Sing
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Heav'n and earth are full of your maj - es -
ty! Ho - san - na in — the high - est! Blest is he who
comes in the Name of the Lord! Sing loud, — Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the
high - est! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Lord God, as you made the earth beneath Moses’s feet into holy ground,
sanctify this meal to bring us into your sacred presence.
As we remember your Son’s saving mercies,
send down your Spirit to anoint your church for ministry.
By that same Spirit bless this bread and cup
that they may be for us the body and blood
of our Savior Jesus Christ;



bear fruit for you. Please fill our cup full of your
dreams of all here; U - nite them in pray'r with these

bles - ing, we pray. And gath - er a har - vest from
of - f'rings we bring. Pre - side at our ta - ble, and

what you have sown, That we may be fed with the
grant us, we pray, A fore - taste of your prom - ised

bread of life. 2. Now come. A - men.

✚ MEAL ✚

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

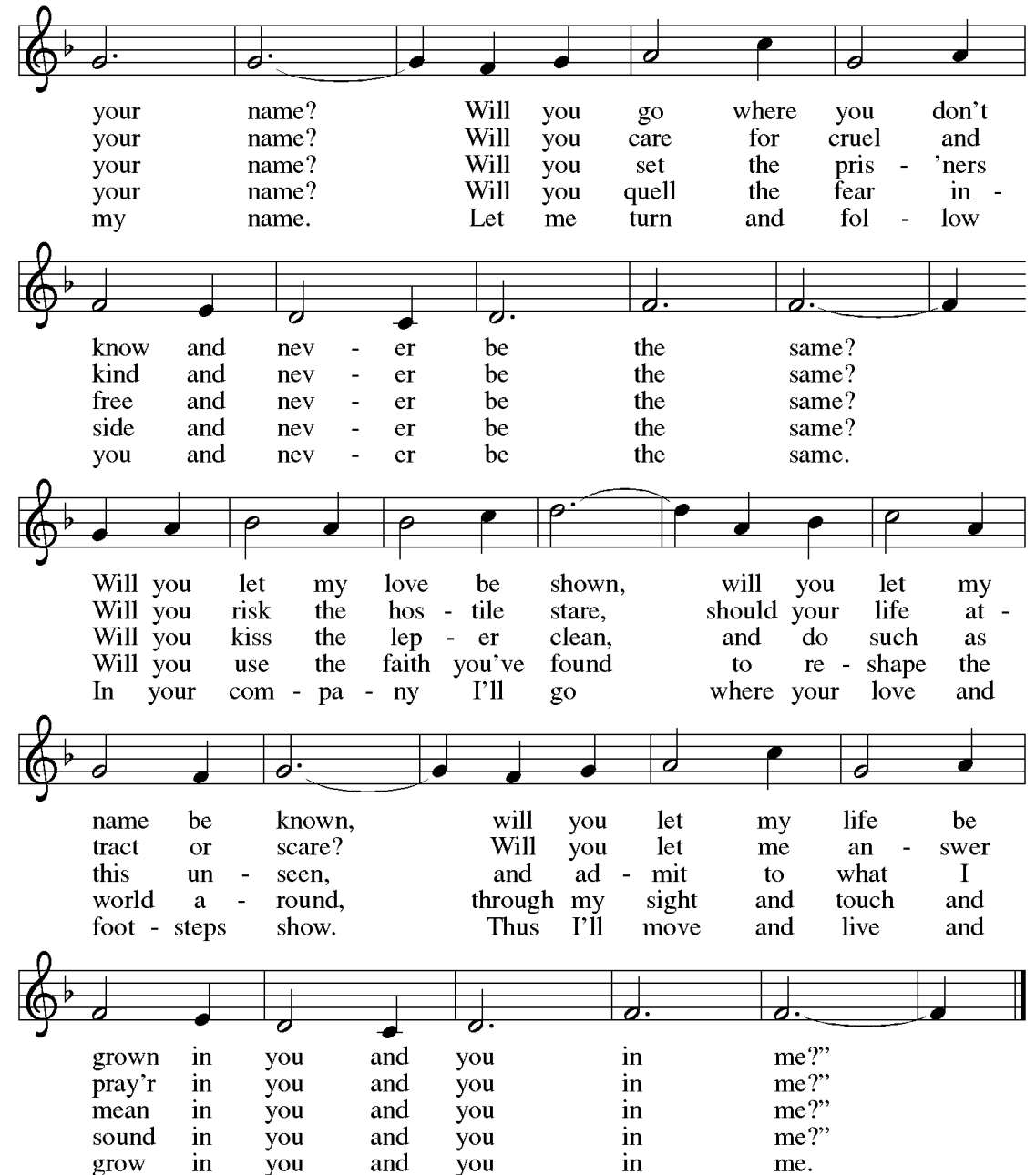


Proper Preface

Blessed be your holy name, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
for you have revealed yourself to be the only, the eternal,
the great I AM.

From the flames of the burning bush you anointed Moses
to lead your people out of hardship and bondage
to the land of promise.

In the fire of the prophets you spoke of a day
when every sin and sorrow would be burned away
and all the earth would be ablaze with your glory.



your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
my name. Let me turn the fear in -
know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and you ad - mit to what I
world a - round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?"
pray'r in you and you in me?"
mean in you and you in me?"
sound in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

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Apostles’ Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

P With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision,
we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

A For the church in every land,
that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ.
When threats or challenges arise,
teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P For the well-being of your creation,
that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive.
Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires,
storms, and other disasters.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A For the nations and all in authority,
that they seek to live in peace with one another.
Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and

all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P For all those in need, that they be satisfied.
Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water,
shelter, and medical care.
Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit,
especially...
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A For the congregation gathered here to serve you,
that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose.
Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings
toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence,
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A For the faithful departed,
that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church.
Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised.
All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

Family of God

1. Your vine - yards, O Lord, may they
(2.) gath - er the hopes and the